

Shannon, Planning Team Leader, Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Rocky Mountain Arsenal—Building 121, Commerce City, Colorado, 80222. Comments and requests can be sent electronically to http://rockyflats@fws.gov. Additionally, copies of the Draft CCP/EIS may be downloaded from the project website: <http://rockyflats.fws.gov>. The Draft CCP/EIS will be available for reading at the following main branch libraries: Arvada Public Library in Arvada, Boulder Public Library in Boulder, Daniels Library in Lakewood, Golden Public Library in Golden, Westminster Public Library in Westminster, Front Range Community College in Westminster, Louisville Public Library in Louisville, Thornton Public Library in Thornton, and Mamie Dowd Eisenhower Library in Broomfield, all Colorado.

The Service will hold four public hearings on the CCP/EIS and encourages you to attend and provide your comments at one of the meetings. The time and place of the meetings will be provided in a Planning Update mailed to agencies, organizations and individuals on the mailing list, in a flyer posted in area libraries, in notices in area newspapers, and on the project Web site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurie Shannon, Planning Team Leader at the above address or at (303) 289-0980.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 6,240-acre Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge site is in northern Jefferson County and southern Boulder County, Colorado. The Rocky Flats site was used as a nuclear weapons production facility until 1992, when the mission of Rocky Flats changed to environmental cleanup and closure. The majority of the site has remained undisturbed for over 50 years and provides habitat for many wildlife species, including the federally threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse, and several rare plant communities. Under the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001, most of the site will become a National Wildlife Refuge once cleanup and closure has been completed. The Refuge will likely be established sometime between 2006 and 2008.

The National Wildlife System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997, requires the Service to develop a CCP for the Refuge. The purpose in developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System,

consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife science, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, the CCP identifies wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

Significant issues addressed in the Draft CCP/EIS include: vegetation management, wildlife management, public use, cultural resources, property, infrastructure, and refuge operations. The Service developed four alternatives for management of the Refuge: Alternative A—No Action; Alternative B—Wildlife, Habitat, and Public Use; Alternative C—Ecological Restoration; and Alternative D—Public Use. All four alternatives outline specific management objectives and strategies related to wildlife and habitat management; public use, education, and interpretation; safety; open and effective communication; working with others; and refuge operations.

Alternative B, the Service's Proposed Action, emphasizes wildlife and habitat conservation with a moderate amount of wildlife-dependent public use. Refuge-wide habitat conservation would include management of native plant communities, weeds, restoration tools, removal and revegetation of unused roads and stream crossings, management of deer and elk populations, prairie dogs, and protection of Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat. Visitor use facilities would include about 16 miles of trails, a visitor contact station staffed seasonally, trailheads with parking, and developed overlooks. Most of the trails would use existing roads and public access would be by foot, bicycle, horse, or car. A limited public hunting program would be developed.

After the review and comment period for this Draft CCP/EIS, all comments will be analyzed and considered by the Service. A Final CCP/EIS will then be prepared and published and will include substantive comments received and the Service's responses to those comments. Changes made to the proposed action will also be identified in the Final CCP/EIS. A Record of Decision and final CCP will then be published.

All comments received from individuals on environmental impact statements become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of

Information Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6(f) and other Service and Departmental policies and procedures.

The Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. Reviewers should provide the Service with their comments during the review period of the Draft CCP/EIS. This enables the Service to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use information acquired in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision making process. Reviewers have an obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if they are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. Comments on the Draft CCP/EIS should be specific and should address the adequacy of the plan, the impact statement, and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).

In the Final EIS, the Service will respond to all substantive comments. Comments are considered substantive if they:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of the information in the document;
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental analysis;
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EIS;
- Cause changes or revisions in the CCP; or
- Provide new or additional information relevant to the analysis.

Dated: January 14, 2004.

John A. Blankenship,

Regional Director—Region 6, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lakewood, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 04-3584 Filed 2-18-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Grand

Cote National Wildlife Refuge located in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*), to achieve the following:

- (1) Advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and
- (2) Obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental document.

Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media announcements will be used to inform the public and state and local government agencies of the opportunities for input throughout the planning process. Open house style meetings will be held throughout the scoping phase of the comprehensive conservation plan development process.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive written comments on or before April 5, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Address comments, questions, and requests for more information to Tina Chouinard, Natural Resource Planner, Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 401 Island Road, Marksville, Louisiana 71351.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved comprehensive conservation plan. This plan guides management decisions and identifies the goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including wildlife and habitat management, public recreational activities, and cultural resource protection. Public input into this planning process is essential.

Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1989 to provide wintering habitat for mallards, pintails, blue-winged teal, and wood ducks, as well as production habitat for wood ducks to meet the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Additional objectives of the refuge include providing habitat for threatened and endangered species, providing habitat for a natural diversity of plant and wildlife species, and providing opportunities for wildlife-oriented recreation and environmental education

when compatible with other refuge objectives.

Grand Cote Refuge, consisting of 6,075 acres, is a component of the Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which includes Lake Ophelia and Cat Island Refuges, three fee title Farmers Home Administration tracts, and thirteen conservation easements located in four central Louisiana Parishes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Natural Resource Planner, Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, telephone: 318/253-4238; fax: 318/253-7139; e-mail: tina_chouinard@fws.gov; or mail (write to the Natural Resource Planner at address in **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority: This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: January 29, 2004.

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

A request extending the collection of information listed below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the USGS Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days; therefore, public comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days in order to assure their maximum consideration. Address your comments and suggestions on the information collection requirement by either fax (202) 395-6566 or e-mail (oira_docket@omb.eop.gov) to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (OMB Control Number 1028-0059). Send copies of your comments and suggestions to the USGS Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807

National Center, Reston, VA 20192, or e-mail (jcordyack@usgs.gov).

As required by OMB regulations at CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments regarding the proposed information collection as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the USGS, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the USGS estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The utility, quality, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Current OMB approval number: 1028-0059.

Abstract: The information, required by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), will provide the CTBT Technical Secretariat with geographic locations of sites where chemical explosions greater than 300 tons TNT-equivalent have occurred. Respondents to the information collection request are U.S. nonfuel minerals producers.

Bureau form number: 9-4040-A.

Frequency: Annual.

Description of respondents:

Companies that have conducted in the last calendar year, or that will conduct in the next calendar year, explosions with a total charge size of 300 tons of TNT-equivalent, or greater.

Annual Responses: 3,000.

Annual burden hours: 750.

Bureau clearance officer: John E. Cordyack, Jr., (703) 648-7313.

John H. DeYoung, Jr.,

Chief Scientist, Minerals Information Team.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

A request extending the collection of information listed below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction